

**Salem County Youth Services Commission Meeting Minutes  
March 6, 2019**



**YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION**  
Administered By  
**Inter Agency Council of Human Services**

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Jean Kuhl  
Chairperson

Jim Whitt  
Vice-Chairperson

**YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION and JUVENILE CRIME ENFORCEMENT COALITION**

Meeting Attendance: March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Voting Roll Call:

Armando Gonzalez	SCPO
Brian Pennington for C. Miller	SCSD
Chuck Goldstein	CGS-CMO
Frank Carozza	Inter-Agency Council
Gabrielle Hall	Public Defender
Glen Donelson	Mid-Atlantic States
Greg Wolf	Family Court
Jack Swain	SC Vo-tech
Jean Kuhl	Community Advocate
Jennifer Rodriguez	YAP
Jerry Oglesby	DCP&P
Jim Whitt	Ranch Hope
John Stranahan	Penns Grove PD
Laurie Spears for L. Snyder	FCIU/MRSS
Lionel Woodley	CGS-FSO
Melanie Ernest	Inter-Agency Council
Pam Comerford for K. Lockbaum	SC Board of Social Services
Peggy Nicolosi	Superintendent SC Schools
Ron Hudak	CGS-CMO
Sarah Kuhl	Rutgers Southern Region R&R
Wayne Maiden For J. Lenahan	SC Prosecutor's Office

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**Guests:**

Alexandra Oasin	Family Court
Amy Kiger	IAC
Allison Ford for P. Ocasio-Jimenez	Pittsgrove Middle School
Doug Bell	SCSO
Erin Klien	Robin's Nest
Heather Vankleef	SCPO
Jami Johnston	SC Board of Social Services
Jenna Harvey	Southwest Council
Jennifer Knox	Upper Pittsgrove SMILE Club
Rosemarie Cuevas for M. Niles	SUN/First Step Clinic
Stewart Potter	Quinton Middle School
Tiffany Duca	AP Schalick MENTORS Program

**I). Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:30PM by Chair Jim Whitt. Welcome and introductions were made around the room.

**II). Presentation - None**

**III). Approval of the Minutes-**

A motion to approve the minutes from February 6, 2019 was made by John Swain with a second from Armando Gonzalez. Motion passed with all in favor and no corrections or additions.

**IV). Committee Reports:**

**Planning and Allocations – (Ron Hudak)**

The Planning committee is currently awaiting the completed conclusions of the SCYSC monitoring results to convene and resume 2019 planning.

**Quality Assurance – (Armando Gonzalez)**

Monitoring is currently underway with Pittsgrove Middle School, Penns Grove High School, Robin's Nest, YAP completed. The GPS Ankle Bracelet Program, First Step Clinic, Upper Pittsgrove Middle School, AP Schalick, will be scheduled for completion by May of 2019 to allow for youth to become

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enrolled in the program. Quinton Township Middle School will be completed on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Please see Armando or Frank if you would like to participate in monitoring visits.

**JET – (Greg Wolf)**

Greg reported that the MDT/JETS meeting was held on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Some discussions regarding the GPS Ankle Bracelet program were had. The Risk Screening Tool has been implemented and seems to be operating smoothly.

**V). Coordinator's Report – (Frank Carozza)**

Frank is currently tallying results the first of two local system partner's surveys to that went out last month to all participants of the SCYSC. It was designed for vendors and members of the YSC to identify areas of possible improvement and service gaps within youth services. The survey has had (6) completions out of (43) invitations to complete. Frank requested that members and participants please complete the survey when possible.

Frank noted on October 26<sup>th</sup>, Governor Murphy signed an executive order creating a task force for the continued transformation of New Jersey's Juvenile Justice System. The task force consists of varied members both the public and private sectors which have now been appointed. They met on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019, to discuss the following focus areas:

- Addressing New Jersey's racial disparities
- Reviewing station house adjustment data
- Evaluating the current youth services commissions
- Conducting a comprehensive review of facilities
- Determining potential reinvestment of current youth incarceration funds
- Implementing a deadline for closure of the New Jersey Training School for boys and the Female Secure Care and Intake Facility
- Recommending the creating of new youth rehabilitation centers
- And reviewing grants for juvenile parole
- The task force will be required to provide its initial report within six months.

Frank urged the Commission to resume previous talks of creating a minority concerns committee for vicinage 15 in conjunction with the Salem County Chapter of the NAACP to address the (3) to (1) disparity of youth of color being incarcerated over their non-minority peers.

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Frank met with new vendors Upper Pittsgrove SMILE Club and A.P Schalick MENTORS program to set them up for success and positive monitoring.

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**VI). JJC Liaison Report- (Spencer Young)**

No report.

**VII). Provider Reports-**

**A). Robin's Nest Programming- (Erin Klein)**

Breaking Limits Program- Is currently serving (5) Youth with a 6-9 month program.

Cognitive Skills Program- Currently serving (8) youth which are enrolled and attending regularly. The CLS program has spent \$2,250.00, and projects to meet all contract commitments for the year with graduation in June.

Connect II Program- Currently serving (3) youth which are enrolled and actively participating. The CII program has currently spent \$3,333.37 and hope to meet their contract commitments to increase referrals and close service gaps.

Grounded- Currently serving (2) youth. This program has spent \$1,250.00 YTD, and should meet contract commitments with this program exceeding their anticipated LOS for CY2019. Armando did note an increase of youth on differed disposition, and recommended that Robin's Nest attend more informal court programs to accommodate youth and increase referral potential.

**B). Quinton Culture Club- (Stewart Potter)**

Stewart Potter reported closing the 2018 Culture Club programming activities-schedule in December. CY 2018 funding has been spent down, and looks forward to the upcoming planning sessions for 2019 programming.

**C). YAP Pay it Forward and PATTS Programming- (Jennifer Rodriquez)**

2019 YAP programming is currently accepting referrals prevention, diversion, and disposition youth. This program provides anti-theft programming and community service components with a stronger focus with youth in diversion programs. As of February, YAP is serving (8) youth (2 Diversion and 6 Prevention). YAP intends to meet

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contract commitments for the year, and is currently accepting referrals from Family Court and probation.

**D). Pittsgrove Middle School- (Allison Ford for Priscilla Ocasio-Jimenez)**

Allison thanked the Commission and reported that P.R.I.D.E. Clubs are meeting once a week for programming. Two weeks ago, Wildcat Wildness Day was held amongst all grades for a school-wide competition and unity day. To date, (506) youth are being served. No funds have been spent year to date as the programming is just starting up for 2019.

Renaissance (Anti-Gang) Programming is currently serving (360) youth. This program is designed to reinforce positive behavior, grades, and attendance within the youth. Currently, no 2019 funding has been spent.

**E). Penns Grove High School- (Frank Carozza for Sharon Riley)**

Frank reported for Sharon Riley as she was hosting Youth Challenge Day at PGHS. Currently, Sharon has served (43) youth, and is currently in the Steered Straight cycle of programming that incorporates (10) weeks of counseling and group sessions which is generally well-attended, and has not spent any 2019 YSC funding.

**F). First Step Clinic- (Rosie Cuevas)**

Year to date, First Step has received (2) referrals have been received. First Step Clinic intends to meet all contract commitments for the year. Rosie addressed questions regarding transportation of youth and juveniles for treatment. Parents of referred youth must attend the first-visit orientation/assessment, and will both will be transported to and from the visit by First Step if needed. With increased referrals, First Step intends to meet all contract commitments with increased referrals for drug and alcohol treatment services.

**G). Upper Pittsgrove Middle School SMILE Club- (Jennifer Knox)**

Jennifer met with Frank on February 22<sup>nd</sup> for vendor training and orientation. SMILE Club is currently serving (23) youth. They are currently working on busy boxes for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia to honor a former student Kelsey Henderson who recently passed-away of cancer. They are beautifying the school playground, providing an outdoor library for youth, and planning CY2019 activities for community service. They have not spent any 2019 funding, but plan to spend-down for this programming cycle.

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H). A.P Schalick MENTORS Program- (Tiffany Duca)

Tiffany and Angela of MENTORS met with Frank to discuss program components and reporting commitments for their new grant. MENTORS are currently serving (17) mentors in the (12<sup>th</sup> grade) and (17) mentees within various grades of the student populations. At their previous meeting, discussions on how to expand the mentor population for students in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade were had to determine the best route to expand the program further to include transportation for underclassmen.

**VIII). JDAI Report** – (Armando Gonzalez)

Armando reported that the IAC and CJJSI stakeholders met with the County Administration to have discussions to prepare the materials to launch B.R.I.D.G.E and Probation Enrichment programs. The county is drafting a Shared Services Agreement for B.R.I.D.G.E, as well as a Request for Proposal for Probation Enrichment programming. The B.R.I.D.G.E Program has an anticipated start date of mid-April with (6-12) anticipated students for an eight week cycle of programming.

The Probation Enrichment RFP is awaiting completion from the CPA Debby Turner-Fox, and will be put out for bid as soon as it has been reviewed and completed. The program is anticipated to be running in May of 2019. A family resource night is currently being planned by Probation to welcome youth and families that will also preview the B.R.I.D.G.E program for possible referrals.

**IX). Salem County Law Enforcement Report-** (John Stranahan)

No Report.

**A). Miss Jean's Gems-**

Jean Kuhl took a moment to discuss missed opportunities. Jean shared a story from her past about facilitating a workshop for multiple youth enrolled at a high-risk school. The lesson was self-awareness, and the youth had to draw a self-portrait as they saw fit. A little girl mentioned that she didn't know her eye color. The teacher asked the youth, "Well how dumb are you that you don't even know what color your eyes are"? Jean engaged the youth privately and asked her, "Why have you never seen your eye color"? The youth responded, "Because the mirrors in my home were set too high and only used by grownups". Jean then suggested to the teacher that mirrors should be placed in the classrooms so the youth can see their reflections. The teachers agreed and realized that there had been a missed opportunity to converse and see the world from a child's perspective by only needing to ask her. Jean concluded by urging the

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Commission to recognize possible opportunities before they are missed so that the same mistake need-not be made.

**X). Old Business-**

None.

**XI). New Business-**

None.

**XII). Announcements-**

-Jack Swain announced that a home on 67 W. Broadway is currently being renovated for use as a historic Black History museum in Salem. A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for March 20th at 10:00AM. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

-On March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00PM, Freeholder Ware will be hosting an annual dinner celebrating his last baseball coaching venture at Alloway Vet. All are welcome to attend.

-On April 27<sup>th</sup>, from 9-3:00PM the Salem County Vo-tech will be hosting its annual Special Services Car Show and open house on campus. All are welcomed to attend.

-Jean Kuhl announced the Salem Community College will be hosting John Krieger to speak on drug and alcohol use in Salem County. The event will be this evening from 6-8:00 PM and all interested are welcome to attend.

**XIII). Adjournment-**

\*A motion to adjourn was made by Jim Whitt with a second from John Stranahan. Motion passed with all in favor.

*The meeting was adjourned at 1:22PM*

*The next Salem County Youth Services meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 3rd, 2019, at 12:30PM.*

*Location: St. John's Parrish Hall 76 Market St. Salem, NJ 08079.*

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*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Frank Carozza*